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Press Release

DA Morrissey, Retired Magistrate Talk safety with Canton's Newest Drivers



Local attorney Glen Hannington was joined by Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey recently during one of his regular appearances at Canton High School's driver education program.

Hannington, who served 25 years as a Magistrate at the Boston Municipal Court before going into private practice in the mid-1990s, periodically visits the town's driver education classes to talk about good decision making for new drivers – including the impact of getting a criminal record at their age and the importance of respecting the lessons parents try to impart on new drivers.

"A lot of tragedy and a lot of triumph passes through a district court in 25 years, and I've seen a lot of good kids pay a high price for bad decisions – both in court and during the 17 years I've been in practice," Hannington said. "I bumped into District Attorney Morrissey in February and asked him if he would come and share his experience with the class as well. He was very well received."

Morrissey, who has made preventing impaired driving and the HERO designated driver campaign a focus of his first term as Norfolk DA, talked about the permanent impact momentary decisions can have.

"We had almost one motor vehicle homicide a week in Norfolk County last year. Many were preventable - not accidents per se, but the predictable outcome of bad decisions made moments or hours before the incident," Morrissey said.

"The more we can reach young drivers and cultivate responsible decisions and good habits, the fewer crashes and crimes we are going to have," Morrissey said. "I appreciate Glen's work with Canton's new drivers, helping teacher Rebecca Ashley and Gerry Sullivan, who supervises the program. I was glad to help."